

**Invitation to Attend
A Forum on the White House Initiative of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders
from Congressman Mike Honda**

Dear Friends:

I invite you to attend a critical forum hosted by Congressman Michael M. Honda, in his capacity as the Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus on the status of the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (the Initiative). The forum will provide background on the Initiative, and will review the current and future status of the Initiative. The forum will take place on Tuesday, January 13th from 10:00 a.m. - noon at the Santa Clara City Council Chambers, 1500 Warburton Avenue, Santa Clara, CA.*

As you may know, the Initiative was originally established by President Clinton's Executive Order 13125, which also established the President's Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (the Commission). President Bush signed an Executive Order renewing the Initiative and Commission once, but that Executive Order extended the Initiative and Commission only to June 7, 2003.

The Initiative was originally established to advise the President, through the Secretary of Health and Human Services, on the three mandates of the Executive Order: To develop, monitor and coordinate federal efforts to improve Asian American and Pacific Islander participation in government programs; to foster research and data collection for Asian American and Pacific Islander populations and sub-populations; and to increase public and private sector and community involvement in improving the health and well-being of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders.

The Commission presented an Interim Report to the President in January of 2001, and focused on five cross-cutting issues:

- * Improving data collection, analysis and dissemination for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;
- * Ensuring access, especially linguistic access and cultural competence, for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;
- * Protecting civil rights and equal opportunity for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;
- * Strengthening and sustaining Asian American and Pacific Islander community capacity;
- * And recognizing and including Native Hawaiians and Pacific Islanders in federal programs and services.

I sincerely hope that you will make the time to come find out more and offer input about the Initiative's progress and future direction. A distinguished panel of AAPI community leaders, as well as representatives from the Initiative, will be invited to give us all more insight into the plans for the direction of this important effort. Your input is essential, as we provide important feedback to the Administration about next steps for the Initiative.

For more information about our forum, you can contact Jennifer Van der Heide Escobar, Chief of Staff, and Bob Sakaniwa, Senior Counsel at 202-225-2631; or Victoria Tung, CAPAC Fellow, and Elizabeth Lee, Field Representative at 408-558-8085.

Thank you in advance for participating at this critical forum.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael M. Honda". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Michael M. Honda

Member of Congress

Chair-Elect, Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus

*Parking is available in the lot east of the Council Chambers in designated visitor spaces or undesignated spaces. Parking is also available on Warburton Avenue and across the street from City Hall in the Triton Museum of Art parking lot. Please do not park in spaces reserved for City vehicles.